

Joe Nolan Named Grand Marshal of St. Pat's Parade

UNION—The 2017 Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee has announced that Joe Nolan of Westfield has been named Grand Marshal of the 21st Annual Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade.



Joe Nolan

Mr. Nolan, a traffic reporter on radio and television in the New York metropolitan area since 1979, has been involved with the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade for several years. "After the shock wore off, I thought about what an honor it is to lead this amazing parade," Mr. Nolan said. "I am proud to be part of this great celebration of our Irish heritage."

Mr. Nolan has promoted the parade, most notably on the "Shannon in the Morning Program" on CBS-FM 101.1 in New York. "Joe has done so much for both the parade and for the community," Parade General Chairman Harry Capko said. "We are so proud to have him lead us as this year's Grand Marshal."

In addition to his duties with the parade committee, Mr. Nolan is active with several charities and hospitals throughout New Jersey including the New Jersey State Police, Make a Wish Foundation of New Jersey and the St. Barnabas Medical

Center. He is also the owner and founder of New Jersey Internet Radio, which provides radio play-by-play of New Jersey high school sports including football, boys' and girls' basketball and lacrosse. The Grand Marshal traces his Irish roots to Counties Wexford, Roscommon, Kerry and Galway.

Sharing in the honor are Nolan's children, Bradley and Conor, and his daughter-in-law, Michelle, as well as his long-time high school sweetheart, Marianne Fitzgerald.

Mr. Nolan will be officially installed as Grand Marshal on Saturday, February 11 at 2:30 p.m. during the parade committee's annual Investiture Mass at the Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity located at 315 First Street, Westfield, N.J. A reception for the Grand Marshal will follow at the Kenilworth Veterans Center, located at 33 South 21st Street, Kenilworth, N.J.

The 21st annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade will step off at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, on Morris Avenue in Union.

For more information about the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade, visit unioncountystpatrickspdayparade.com.

Capitol Senior Housing Complains of Admin. Fee

By KATE BROWNE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE—The borough council received a presentation Tuesday night from Paul Schneider, an attorney representing Capitol Senior Housing, one of the nation's largest operators of residential communities for senior adults.

The company operates 120 living communities which serve more than 16,300 residents. Capitol is developing a facility in Mountainide on Springfield Avenue adjacent to the Primrose School. Mr. Schneider, Tuesday night, contended that the borough mistakenly charged his client \$79,642 in administrative fees in connection with its application to the board of adjustment. According to Mr. Schneider, the administration classified the proposed facility as "residential" when the Uniform Construction Code mandates that it be considered "commercial."

He noted that the purpose of the administrative fee is to cover the costs of postage, secretarial support and other ministerial matters, and it was "inconceivable that that amount of money could be involved in this ap-

plication." Mr. Schneider claimed the fees for the typical facility range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and suggested that his client would be willing to consider resolving the dispute by obtaining credits for future costs such as sewer hookup and filing fees.

At the conclusion of Mr. Schneider's presentation, Borough Attorney Paul Schneider said the council would discuss the matter during its executive session and would advise him as soon as possible on a proposed course of action.

In other business, Council members unanimously voted in favor of an emergency appropriation of \$123,266 to replace the 911 call system which is 17 years old and is no longer supported by Verizon. The new state-of-the-art MAX Call Taking Call Controller Bundle system will be leased for five years, officials said.

The council's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21. At that meeting, the council will issue a proclamation recognizing Youth Art Month and conducted a second reading on a proposed ordinance to increase the membership fees at the Mountainside Community Pool.

Bill to Protect Public Safety Officers Approved By Panel

TRENTON – Legislation to support workers who are attacked while supervising inmates or detainees continued advancing this week and is now poised for final legislative approval.

Under current law, a corrections officer or juvenile detention officer who is seriously injured after a prison riot or inmate attack and cannot work does not receive any salary while waiting for workers' compensation to take effect, which can take several months.

The bill, A-3422, would establish a compensation program that would allow state corrections officers, juvenile corrections officers, juvenile detention officers, parole officers and probation officers who suffer bodily injury as the result of an attack by inmates, detainees or other persons under their supervision to continue to receive full wages until they begin receiving workers' compensation payments.

In addition to workers' compensation, the injured employee also would receive regular supplemental payments from his or her employer in an amount that, when combined with workers' compensation, equals his or her net wage at the time of the injury.

As amended, the bill's provisions would also apply to civilian employees who work directly with inmates or detainees, and to probation officers who suffer bodily injury as the result of an assault committed by an inmate, detainee, or person on probation while engaged in official duties.

State Human Services police officers, conservation officers and park police officers who suffer bodily injury would also be eligible for the compensation program.

The bill was approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and now awaits final Assembly approval.

Protests to Continue In Front of Lance's Office

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD—Protests continued on February 1 in front of Rep. Leonard Lance's (R-7th) Westfield office on North Avenue as New Jersey Citizen Action continues its Wednesday night protests against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), better known as ObamaCare.

Citizen Action describes itself as "a statewide grassroots organization fighting for social and economic justice." It scheduled eight protests throughout the state last Wednesday in front of Mr. Lance's offices in Westfield and Flemington, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen's (R-11th) office in Morristown, Rep. Frank LoBiondo's (R-2nd) Mays Landing office, Rep. Tom MacArthur's (R-3rd) offices in Marlton and Toms River, and Rep. Chris Smith's (R-4th) offices in Freehold and Hamilton.

"Republicans have started moving on their plans to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and cut funding for Medicare and Medicaid, with no plan to ensure that 30 million people nationwide – including one million here in New Jersey – can keep their health care coverage," according to a statement on the New Jersey Citizen Action website. "We're taking action to try and stop this insanity."

Dena Mottola Jaborska, associate director of Citizen Action, said 185 people took part in the protest in front of Mr. Lance's Westfield office.

Locally, Sharon Stockwell of Westfield has taken part in the first three marches (last night's occurred after press deadline.) She described herself to *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* as a "foot soldier" for Citizen Action.

Mrs. Stockwell said she was one of 20 marchers invited to meet with Mr. Lance in his office during the January 25 protest. She said the group told the Congressman they want to see the ACA repaired instead of repealing the health care law signed by former President Barack Obama in his first term in office.

"We are really trying to press him into repairing rather than replacing (ObamaCare)," Mrs. Stockwell said. She said Mr. Lance would not commit to not voting for repeal of the law without a replacement bill set to go. "He plays a game of semantics" on where he stands on repeal and replace of the ACA, she added.

"It (Wednesday night marches) will go on for months...until this is resolved," Mrs. Stockwell told *The Leader/Times*.

When reached in Washington, D.C. last Friday, the Congressman said he supports the First Amendment rights of protesters to let their voices be heard, providing they do not interfere with anyone else's rights, something he said has not occurred.

The House has yet to vote on

legislation to repeal the ACA in the current session of Congress. Also, while several proposals for new health care legislation are being considered, nothing has been introduced to date other than procedural votes.

The House passed a budget resolution last Friday that gives Congress the legislative tools to repeal and replace ACA in a procedural vote. Mr. Lance said: "Too many Americans are disappointed and disillusioned with Obamacare. The law is too expensive, too restrictive and too burdensome. Premiums have dramatically increased, co-ops and state exchanges have failed, and medical costs continue to skyrocket."

"We are going to replace the law, repeal the law," Mr. Lance told *The Leader/Times*, adding that, "I have never favored repeal without replacement."

"We can do this step by step" but not all in one bill, he acknowledged. "It will be a series of bills," he added, and will likely take months and perhaps years before it is fully implemented, he said. He said House Republicans will have to work with their Senate counterparts and that some Democratic support will likely be necessary.

In terms of President Trump's comments that he wants quick action on repealing and replacing ACA, Mr. Lance's press secretary John Byers said the process to fix or replace ACA by Congress is where "Trump's rhetoric reaches reality."

The Congressman explained that while only a simple majority is needed to pass some parts ACA reform legislation in the Senate through a procedure called reconciliation, 60 votes will be needed for some parts of any replacement bills in the Senate. He also does not see the Republican Senate majority using the so-called "nuclear" option to eliminate a filibuster on legislation.

Mr. Lance said that out of 3,000 counties in America, one-third of them only have one option under Obamacare, meaning just over 1,000 counties have one plan to choose from. Likewise, he said he has had constituents in his office crying because of what he described as "tremendous" increases in both their insurance premiums and deductibles.

According to his press release, the Congressman "supports bolstering health savings accounts, incentives for states to control health care costs, allowing insurance companies to sell policies across state lines, permitting small businesses to pool together to purchase coverage for their employees, creating state-based insurance pools for individuals with pre-existing conditions and medical malpractice reform."

A call and an email for comment regarding last week's march was not returned from Leila Amirhamzeh, who is the organizer for the Citizen Action marches.

Watson Coleman Named Panel Vice-Ranking Member

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12th) was unanimously elected on January 31 by her Democratic colleagues to serve as vice-ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee for the 115th Congress. She released the following statement:

"...I look forward to advancing policies to keep Americans safe from an array of threats to our national security. Terrorism has directly affected my district, so I know first-hand that the work of this committee is essential to the well-being and safety of not only New Jersey, but also the nation. As we begin our work with a volatile and, seemingly, unprepared Trump Administration, it is more important than ever that we stand firm in the

fight against terror – both foreign and domestic – and move closer to meaningful and impactful solutions for the entire Department of Homeland Security."

In the 114th Congress, Rep. Watson Coleman served as the ranking member for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, was the primary sponsor of three bills that passed the full House, and worked with her colleagues to improve the operations of U.S. national security infrastructure.

"I want to congratulate Congresswoman Watson Coleman on being chosen by her colleagues to be vice-ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security. In this position, she will help me lead the committee Democrats as we ensure the Department of Homeland Security and its federal, state, local, and private sector partners are working together to keep our nation secure." Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.) said. "Not only is Congresswoman Watson Coleman experienced in government – she is a fighter – and I know she will stand for what's right."

Her election as vice-ranking member follows her appointment as ranking member for the Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets under the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Watson Coleman to Hold Meeting With Muslim Community

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12th) has penned a letter to the members of the entire New Jersey congressional delegation requesting their attendance at a meeting with Muslim community leaders from New Jersey on Tuesday, February 14, to hear firsthand from constituents on their impressions of President Donald Trump's executive orders on immigration.

"Regardless of where my colleagues and I stand on the merits of these executive orders, our delegation is most effective when we are all

on one accord. I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide our constituents with the support and guidance that they expect and deserve and this bipartisan meeting serves to meet that need."

The meeting request follows a conference call Rep. Watson Coleman hosted with Muslim leaders across her district.

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ATTENTION MODEL TRAIN ENTHUSIASTS...Union County residents are invited to warm up at the A. Paul Mallory Model Railroad Center in Union Township this Saturday, February 11, and learn how to use the latest electronic equipment to operate trains by viewing the action on multiple layouts. The Railroad Center is located in a mixed-use area of Union County's Lenape Park. The Model Railroad Club, a non-profit organization, runs the Railroad Center. The center is open to the public every Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$6 per adult 18 and older, \$5 per teen 12 to 17, and \$4 for children 5 to 12. Children under age 5 are welcome, and are admitted for free.

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Correction

In last week's newspaper we reported in Page 2 that the immigration and refugee ban was for seven Middle East countries. The ban includes Sudan and Somalia, African nations, as well as Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen in the Middle East.

ADS PLACED IN THE LEADER/TIMES BRING RESULTS